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05 Nov 2001

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AIAA Joint Propulsion Conference (07-10 July 2002) (Deadline: <u>06 November 2001</u>)

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PHILIP A. KESSEL Date
Technical Advisor
Space and Missile Propulsion Division

Title:

Evaluation of Monopropellants for Reusable Launch Vehicles

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Abstract:

Previously, the Air Force has been investigating high performance salt-based, liquid monopropellants for low thrust spacecraft applications. The focus of this effort has been on finding a reduced toxicity monopropellant with a predicted density performance impulse greater than 50% over hydrazine. During this same period of time, NASA has been investigating reusable launch vehicle (RLV) concepts and has considered using monopropellants in this application. Anticipating a possible RLV payoff, NASA and the Air Force are working on a trade study to gauge the potential applicability of the salt-based monopropellants in booster applications. This study will include a performance comparison of salt-based monopropellants; a list of minimum safety, hazard, and physical property requirements based on operational and logistical support environments for an RLV.

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